

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 22-24, 29, and 30 are amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 4-24, 29, and 30 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1, 2, 4-24, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,487,600 to Lynch (hereinafter "Lynch") in view of newly cited reference U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0066026 to Yau et al. ("Yau").

Yau discloses a data distribution network that includes a distribution-coordinating server and a plurality of client nodes, in which each of the client nodes is configured to pull or push data from other clients or servers. The distribution-coordinating server monitors the locations of data sources and the statuses of data transfers between clients and coordinates large-scale distributions of data among a multitude of clients. Metadata describing the data and clients can be exchanged between the clients and the distribution-coordinating server to coordinate the data distributions. See Yau's Abstract.

Applicants have amended the independent claims to clarify that a user terminal (recipient) who receives the content determines the one or more user terminals to whom the content is delivered next. Applicants believe that the claim amendment is supported by the originally filed specification, for example, FIG. 4 and page 22 line 12, to page 23 line 6.

Thus, in Yau, the servers that are to receive the content are first specified by the source of the data, i.e. server 52, arrow 10, to the distribution coordinating server 51 which then instructs a recipient, e.g. 54, arrow 11, to subsequently send the data received to two other user terminals, 56 and 60 (see paragraph [0022] and FIG. 1 of Yau). In contrast, according to the amended independent claims each recipient user terminal determines one or more destination user terminals. The one or more destination user terminals are not specified by the source (i.e. a buddy list of the source). Only the primary destination terminals are on the buddy list of the source. A primary destination terminal or subsequent user terminals that received the content becomes a recipient that "until the stop condition is satisfied [...] [determines] one or more destination user terminals to which the distribution content will be distributed." To summarize, while in Yau the distribution-coordinating server 51 instructs a server 52 to re-transmit data,

according to the independent claims, recipients of the data (such as server 52) select the one or more destination user terminals,

Therefore amended independent claims 1, and 22-24 patentably distinguish over Lynch and Evgey at least because the following features of claim 1 are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art references:

until the stop condition is satisfied, by any recipient user terminal that has received the distribution content including any of the primary destination terminals, determining one or more destination user terminals to which the distribution content will be distributed, the one or more destination user terminals being selected from user terminals in a buddy list of the recipient user terminal, in accordance with the distribution condition, and transmitting the distribution content from the recipient user terminal to the one or more destination terminal.

In view of the above discussion, amended independent claim 22 patentably distinguishes over Lynch and Yau at least by reciting:

distribution-catenating means for iteratively activating second distribution means respectively located in each of the user terminals that have received the distribution content, each second distribution means transmitting the distribution content, from any recipient user terminal to which the distribution content has been sent, to some or all of one or more destination user terminals selected from user terminals whose identifiers are correlatively stored with the identifier of the recipient terminal in a buddy list of the recipient user terminal, in accordance with the distribution condition, until the stop condition is satisfied.

In view of the above discussion, amended independent claim 23 patentably distinguishes over Lynch and Yau at least by reciting:

until the stop condition is satisfied, by any recipient user terminal to which the distribution content has been sent, determining one or more destination user terminals to which the informational content will be distributed, the one or more destination user terminals being selected from user terminals whose identifiers are correlatively stored with the identifier of the recipient terminal in a buddy list, in accordance with the distribution condition, and transmitting the informational content to some or all of one or more destination user terminals that are registered in the buddy list of the recipient user terminal.

In view of the above discussion, amended independent claim 24 patentably

distinguishes over Lynch and Yau at least by reciting:

until the stop condition is satisfied, by any recipient user terminal to which the distribution content has been sent, determining one or more destination user terminals to which the informational content will be distributed, the one or more destination user terminals being selected from user terminals whose identifiers are correlatively stored with the identifier of the recipient terminal in a buddy list, in accordance with the distribution condition, and transmitting the informational content to some or all of one or more destination user terminals that are registered in the buddy list of the recipient user terminal.

In view of the above discussion, amended independent claim 29 patentably distinguishes over Lynch and Yau at least by reciting:

iteratively, until the stop condition is met, determining one or more destination terminals to which the distribution content to be distributed by any recipient terminal who has received the distribution content, and distributing the distribution content from the recipient terminal to the one or more destination terminals.

In view of the above discussion, amended independent claim 30 patentably distinguishes over Lynch and Yau at least by reciting:

distributing the distribution content from user terminals that received the distribution content to one or more user terminals identified in buddy lists of the respective user terminals until a stop distribution condition provided by the first terminal is met, wherein any user terminal that distribution content determines the one or more user terminals to which to distribute the content.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

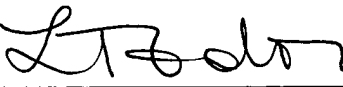
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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